Dear Mr May — I have often lost much — I have been [illegible] by the neglect of the officials in the Govt. offices in New York & Boston to send forward papers ordered by me in behalf of subscribers. Some months ago I sent the name of Mrs Ashurst Biggs (a relative of the late W. Ashurst) 12, Orme Square, Bayswater, London, for the Standard & I learn from her lately saying it had never reached her. I always take the precaution when an order reaches me to give notice that the first paper will be a long time on the way — but this time it seems not to have come at all.

I wish you would take off the Liberator list the name of Dr Hutton of Derby whose widow has just paid for 1860 & 1861. I think the Dr died in 1859. While he lived he regularly called on me with his subscription. His mother, a wonderfully bright & lovable old lady, still lives, aged between 94. Several of her sons have gone before at mature age.

In the last Advocate I printed a part of your letter to E Wigham in which you thank her for money for the cause. It reads as if meant for myself. I did not want the praise but I did wish the readers to see your utterance of the [illegible] [illegible] do. The act was perha

shabby & high handed – but I suppose very few of the readers of your letter will think of R. D. W. – and Eliz & I are both agreed that few people can afford to dispense with praise of her good qualities better than Elizabeth Pease who is I think as near perfection as any one I know.

I have of late had a great variety of letters from a great variety of very good people in the U. S. and while they differ very much among themselves as to the way we should look upon affairs – they all impress me with their uprightness & sincerity so that we can readily agree to differ. Whilst you approve of the course of some of your British friends & are dissatisfied with others I fancy the difference between them arises from looking at the shield from different points of view – not from obliquity of vision, or of intention or from any failure in fidelity to the cause which is so justly dear to us all.

I remark that W. Phillips compliments the President on his message, Garrison condemns him. I regard it simply as a sign of the times and as showing ~~[illegible]~~ much that we can be proud of in the state of the Presidential mind.

Mrs. Ashurst Biggs, 12. Orme Square, Bayswater, London

I had several newspapers yesterday from George Thompson who is lecturing throughout the Yorkshire towns & is thus doing good service — but the class who attend such lectures here is not equal to those who attend them with you. In my opinion the public press is the most influential & in no way is the cause of the slave or of a favourable opinion towards the north so effectually promoted as by Harriet Martineau from whose articles in the Daily News you would never gather that she was regarded with so much disapprobation by her particular friends in Boston & the neighbourhood.

Next to the D.N. the paper I like best is the Spectator which is very ably & impartially conducted.

That the North will conquer the South I cannot doubt. How she will be able to effect a valuable union between the two halves of the old federation it is difficult to foresee. The sores of the last years struggle will I fear be found difficult to heal. I hope whenever you write you will tell me of your son, for whose safety I feel as interested as if he were a near relation of my own. I enclose stamps which I should have sent before (but omitted in my haste) & am yours

truly & affectionately

Richd D Webb

Wendell Phillips went to Washington (with
its attendant circumstances) is I think
the most hopeful incident I have yet heard.
There ~~has been~~ no defeats of any thing
been nothing in those contests that [illegible]
I heard the particulars

Rev. Samuel May

Ms. B. 1. 6 v. 15 p. 86